

Message Text

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PRS-01 NEA-06 IO-03 L-02 DPW-01 DRC-01 /073 W

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O R 130950Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2623

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJ: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT, MARCH 6-12,1974

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART I -- SUMMARY.

1. TOTAL INCIDENTS IN MR 1 WERE DOWN FROM LAST WEEK; THEY CONTINUE TO BE SMALL IN SCALE AND CONCENTRATED IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE. HOWEVER, A 31-TON VNN VESSEL WAS SUNK BY A MINE AND A VNAF HELICOPTER GUNSHIP DESTROYED BY GROUND FIRE DURING THE WEEK. IN MR 2 PLEIKU AND KONTUM PROVINCES REPORTED THE MOST INCIDENTS. WHILE TOTAL INCIDENTS ROSE FROM LAST WEEK, ACTIVITY CONTINUED TO BE MINOR IN SCALE. REPORTED COMMUNIST LOSSES NEARLY DOUBLED, NO MAJOR ENGAGEMENTS OCCURRED IN MR 3 AND TOTAL INCIDENTS WERE DOWN. COMMUNIST ATTACKS BY FIRE DROPPED SHARPLY WITH THE DECREASE A KEY FACTOR IN AN OVER THIRTY PER CENT REDUCTIONS IN ARVN CASUALTIES. A VNAF HELICOPTER CREWMEMBER WAS KILLED BY COMMUNIST SMALL ARMS FIRE WHILE HIS HELICOPTER WAS FLYING IN SUPPORT OF THE PRISONER EXCHANGE AT LOC MINH.

MR 4 AGAIN WAS THE MOST MILITARILY ACTIVE AREA OF SOUTH VIET-NAM. SUBSTANTIAL ACTIVITY, SOME OF IT APPARENTLY UN-REPORTED, CONTINUES IN THE UPPER DELTA AROUND COMMUNIST BASE AREA 470 AT TRI PHAP. SENIOR ARVN OFFICERS PRIVATELY CLAIM SUCCESS IN PREVENTING NVA FIFTH DIVISION UNITS FROM MR 3 FROM REACHING THE AREA. IN AN INCIDENT AT CAI LAY DISTRICT TOWN IN DINH TUONG, SOUTH OF THE FIGHTING AT TRI PHAP, A SINGLE COMMUNIST MORTAR HIT A SCHOOLYARD KILLING 24 SCHOOLCHILDREN AND WOUNDING FIFTY, INCLUDING 47 OTHER CHILDREN. OTHER MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE DELTA WAS CONCENTRATED LARGELY IN VC MR 3, PARTICULARLY IN PHONG DIEN AND BA XUYEN PROVINCES. IN ADDITION IN BA XUYEN, FOURTEEN CAMBODIANS WERE KILLED AND 29 WOUNDED AT A PAGODA WHEN A GRENADE WAS THROWN INTO A CROWD FOR UNKNOWN REASONS. IN KIEN GIANG, COMMUNIST-INITIATED ACTIVITY DROPPED AND THE MILITARY HIGH POINT OF RECENT WEEKS APPEARS TO HAVE PASSED. ON MARCH 6 THE COMMUNISTS RETURNED THE REMAINS OF TWELVE OF THE TWENTY-THREE U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE DRV AS HAVING

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DIED IN CAPTIVITY IN NORTH VIET-NAM: THE REMAINING ELEVEN WERE RETURNED ON MARCH 13.

PART II--ICCS.

2. IRANIAN AND INDONESIAN DELEGATIONS COLLABORATED IN DE FACTO INVESTIGATIONS OR "OBSERVATIONS" OF THE MORE SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS OF CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS, INCLUDING COMMUNIST SMALL-ARMS FIRING ON THE

GVN TPJMC HELICOPTER RETURNING TO BIEN HOA FROM PRISONER EXCHANGES;
COMMUNIST MORTARING OF THE SCHOOL AT CAI LAY IN THE DELTA; AND THE
GRENADE EXPLOSION IN A CAMBODIAN PAGODA IN BA XUYEN PROVINCE IN THE

DELTA. THE TWO ACTIVE DELEGATIONS CONTINUED INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSIONS
WITH THE TWO COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS ON THE ISSUES OF SAFETY
OF SOME PRESENT TEAM SITES AND THE COMMUNIST INSISTENCE ON SAFETY
GUARANTEES FOR INVESTIGATIONS.

3. FACED WITH SERIOUS ULTIMATA BY KEY UNPAID US CONTRACTORS TO
SUSPEND SERVICES IMMINENTLY, INCLUDING THOSE ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN
THE ICCS TEAM SITES, THE ICCS AND THE EMBASSY COORDINATED APPEALS TO
THE GVN TO PAY THE REMAINING PORTION OF THE GVN'S FIRST YEAR BUDGET.

PART III-FPJMT: REPATRIATION OF DIC REMAINS.

4. THE DRV PROPOSED AND THE US AVCEPTED MARCH 13 AS THE DATE TO
RETURN THE REMAINS OF THE FINAL ELEVEN AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL
ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE DRV AS HAVING DIED IN CAPTIVITY IN NORTH VIET-
NAM. THE DRV REFUSED TO INCLUDE WITH THE ELEVEN THE REMAINS OF AN
ADDITIONAL UNIDENTIFIED AMERICAN WHO WAS BURIED NEAR SOME OF
THOSE REPATRIATED AND WHO IS BELIEVED TO HAVE DIED AS THE RESULT
OF A B-52 CRASH IN NORTH VIET-NAM. THE DRV CONTINUES TO REFUSE
INFORMATION ON US MILITARY PERSONNEL MISSING IN ACTION IN NORTH
VIET-NAM.

PART IV--COMMUNIST MEDIA ON THE RETURN OF THE DIC REMAINS.

5. DRV AND OTHER COMMUNIST MEDIA HAVE UNIFORMLY CHARACTERIZED
THE INITIAL MARCH 6 RETURN OF THE REMAINS OF AMERICAN MILITARY
PERSONNEL WHO DIED IN CAPTIVITY IN NORTH VIET-NAM AS A
"UNILATERAL ACT- ON THE DRV'S PART ILLUSTRATING ITS "GOODWILL". THE
MEDIA REPORTS HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED TO LINK THE RETURN TO THE EXCHANGE
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OF VIETNAMESE POWS OR OTHER ARTICLES OF THE PARIS ACCORDS AS THE
DRV HAS ATTEMPTED TO DO CONSISTENTLY THROUGHOUT ITS PRIVATE
NEGOTIATIONS WIT THE US DELEGATION TO THE FPJMT.

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O R 130950Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2624

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CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

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PART V -- MR 1.

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

ACCORDING TO I CORPS HEADQUARTERS THERE WERE 54 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS LAST WEEK, A DAILY AVERAGE OF 8 AND A REDUCTION FROM LAST WEEK'S TOTAL OF 81. GVN CASUALTIES: 32 KIA; 183 WIA. NVA/VC LOSSES 134 KIA; 2 RETURNEES.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

ALTHOUGH MILITARY ACTIVITY IN QUANG TRI CONSISTED OF ONE MINE EXPLOSION AND INCIDENTS IN THUA THIEN WERE FEW, IN ONE CASE ENEMY GROUND ATTACKS PRECEDED BY 200 ROUNDS OF MORTAR FIRE FORCED REGIONAL FORCE TROOPS TO WITHDRAW TEMPORARILY FROM 2 STRONG POINTS (YD 56 25) NEAR CO BI.

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG NAM MILITARY ACTIVITY EXCEPT FOR MINE EXPLOSIONS WAS QUITE LIGHT. HOWEVER, ON MARCH 5 AN AIR VIETNAM PLANE FLYING FROM PHU BAI TO DA LAT WAS HIT BY GROUND FIRE 15 MILES NORTH-WEST OF DANANG AND FORCED TO LAND AT THE DANANG AIRFIELD. IN ADDITION, A DUY XUYEN VILLAGE CHIEF WAS KILLED IN A MINE EXPLOSION, AND ON MARCH 12 A VNN CRAFT FROM COASTAL GROUP 14 WAS SUNK BY A NAVAL MINE IN THE RIVER MOUTH OFF THE COASTAL GROUP. THERE WERE NO REPORTED CASUALTIES.

4. IN QUANG TIN THERE WAS LITTLE ACTIVITY, BUT IN QUANG NGAI BOTH SIDES WERE BUSY. IN ONLY A SLIGHT EXAGGERATION OF THE RECENT PATTERN, THERE WERE 38 MINING INCIDENTS AND 41 ATTACKS BY FIRE (ONLY 14 REPORTED ELSEWHERE IN I CORPS), AND 39 CONTACTS BY FRIENDLY UNITS WERE REPORTED (11 WERE REPORTED ELSEWHERE IN I CORPS). ON MARCH 5 AND 6 THE ENEMY MORTARED DUC PHO DISTRICT TOWN. ON MARCH 8 A Q.L. 1 BRIDGE IN MO DUC DISTRICT WAS MINED AND SEVENTY PERCENT DESTROYED. (TRAFFIC WAS RESTORED THE SAME DAY.) MO DUC DISTRICT TOWN WAS MORTARED ONCE. ON MARCH 11 THE RUNWAY OF QUANG NGAI AIRFIELD WAS LIGHTLY DAMAGED

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BY ONE ROCKET AND A GUNSHIP OF THE 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION CRASHED AND WAS DESTROYED AFTER TAKING GROUND FIRE. THE CREW WAS SAFE.

5. ICCS:

THERE WAS NO REPORTED ICCS ACTIVITY IN REGION I. IN REGION II ON MARCH 6, THE INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS CONDUCTED OBSERVATIONS OF THE SITES OF TWO ENEMY MORTARING INCIDENTS AT DUC PHO IN QUANG NGAI.

PART VI -- MR 2.

1. STATISTICAL SUMMARY: AFTER DECLINING FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS, THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS BRIEFED IN NHA TRANG INCREASED. THERE WERE 116 INCIDENTS COMPARED TO 96 LAST WEEK. PLEIKU AND BINH DINH PROVINCES REPORTED 30; KONTUM FOLLOWED WITH 20. INCIDENTS WERE ALSO REPORTED IN BINH THUAN (13), DARLAC (11), PHU YEN (9), KHANH HOA (2) AND LAM DONG (1). CASUALTIES ALSO INCREASED, WITH RVNAF SUFFERING 30 KIA, 105 WIA AND 25 MIA, COMPARED TO 24 KIA AND 80 WIA. COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE PLACED AT 336 KIA, UP SHARPLY FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S 170. AIR STRIKES OCCURRED IN PLEIKU (89), KONTUM (47), BINH DINH (38), BINH THUAN (38), DARLAC (20) AND QUANG DUC (8).

2. PLEIKU/KONTUM: MOST OF THE REPORTED CONTACTS IN PLEIKU WERE LIGHT ATTACKS BY FIRE DIRECTED AGAINST GVN FORCES WEST OF PLEIKU CITY. IN ADDITION THERE WERE AIR ATTACKS AGAINST COMMUNIST LOC'S AND SUSPECTED TROOP CONCENTRATIONS. ONE SUCH ATTACK ON MARCH 6 RESULTED IN 15 COMMUNISTS CLAIMED KIA. FURTHER INFORMATION HAS BEEN OBTAINED ON THE ABDUCTION OF THE PEOPLE OF PLEI DE GROI VILLAGE REPORTED IN SITREP ON 2/27/74. IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE PEOPLE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT THEIR VILLAGE WOULD BE ATTACKED ON FEBRUARY 6 AND THAT SOME 580 PERSONS WERE PACKED AND READY TO ACCOMPANY THE COMMUNIST ATTACKERS. THIS NUMBER INCLUDED THE PSDF WHO LEFT THEIR ARMS BEHIND IN THE VILLAGE. VILLAGE OFFICIALS DID NOT ACCOMPANY THE COMMUNISTS AND NATIONAL POLICE WERE NOT PRESENT AT TIME OF ATTACK. THE RF HAVE "LIBERATED" SOME 124 OF THE "ABDUCTED" PERSONS, WHO ARE NOW CLASSIFIED AS REFUGEES. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTION REPORTED IN KONTUM DURING THE WEEK WAS AN ATTACK BY AIR ON A COMMUNIST LOCATION NEOF KONTUM TOWN ON MARCH 6, RESULTING IN THE CLAIM OF CONFIDENTIAL

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75 KILLED BY AIR. OUR PROV REP REPORTS THAT AN RF UNIT SENT INTO THE AREA FOR BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT WAS UNABLE TO VERIFY ANY OF THE KILLS. KONTUM SECTOR HAS RECEIVED REPORTS OF A NEW AA UNIT IN THE VICINITY OF THE VO DINH/KON BRAIH ROAD NE OF KONTUM, BUT THIS HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED BY FIRINGS ON FRIENDLY AIRCRAFT.

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3. BINH DINH/PHU YEN: THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE INCIDENT IN BINH DINH WAS THE MORTARING OF A MILITARY CONVOY ON QL-19 BETWEEN QUI NHON AND BINH KHE. THE INCIDENT OCCURRED AT 1035 ON MARCH 8 AND RESULTED IN DAMAGE TO TWO TRUCKS. A VILLAGE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN WAS ASSASSINATED 6 KM WNW OF PHU MY ON MARCH 6. NATIONAL POLICE REPORT THAT 18 GVN OFFICIALS/CADRE WERE KILLED DURING JANUARY AND

FEBRUARY. THE COMMUNISTS IN PHU YEN SEEM TO BE DEVOTING MOST OF THEIR ATTENTION TO DEVELOPING THEIR LOCAL PRODUCTION AREAS. THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY CONTINUING EFFORTS TO PURCHASE FERTILIZER AND INSECTICIDE IN GVN MARKETS.

4. OTHER AREAS: ON MARCH 7, THE GVN LAUNCHED AN OPERATION IN THE AREA NW OF PHAN THIET, BINH THUAN PROVINCE. IT INVOLVES 4 RF BATTALIONS, 2 RF COMPANIES AND AN ARMOR UNIT DISPATCHED FROM THE 23RD DIVISION AND IS EXPECTED TO LAST 10 DAYS. SIGNIFICANT CONTACT WAS ESTABLISHED ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE OPERATION, BUT HAS BEEN LIGHT SINCE. THE GVN CONTINUES ITS OPERATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF BAN DON, DARLAC PROVINCE, WHERE CONTACT IS FREQUENT, BUT LIGHT. IN QUANG DUC THE SITUATION REMAINS STABLE. OUR PROV REP IN TUYEN DUC REPORTS 12 COMMUNISTS KIA IN MINOR ACTIONS DESPITE THE FACT THAT MR HQ IN NHA TRANG RECORDS NO INCIDENTS IN THAT PROVINCE.

5. ICCS: LOCAL TEAMS HAVE BEEN HIT BY ANOTHER BUDGET CRISIS AND ARE EXPERIENCING CUT-BACKS IN SUPPORT. REGION III SITE MANAGER WAS INSTRUCTED BY SAIGON TO ELIMINATE OVERTIME FOR ALL EMPLOYEES EXCEPT GENERATOR OPERATORS AND TO CEASE ALL PROCUREMENT EXCEPT FOOD. PERSONNEL REDUCTIONS WERE ORDERED ON THE SAME DATE. VEHICLE SUPPORT HAS BEEN REDUCED TO ONE JEEP PER NATIONAL GROUP IN PLACE OF THE THREE FORMERLY AUTHORIZED.

PART VII MR-3.

1. IN THE WEEK'S TWO MOST NOTABLE GROUND ENCOUNTERS, GVN FORCES INFLECTED HEAVY CASUALTIES. IN A SUCCESSFUL AIR STRIKE ON A VC MEETING PLACE IN NORTHERN BIEN HOA PROVINCE, VNAF ACCOUNTED FOR A REPORTED 20 KIA AND DESTRUCTION OF 35 BUNKERS. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, NO MAJOR ENGAGEMENTS IN MR 3 AND MILITARY ACTIVITY DECLINED. DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW, 158 INCIDENTS WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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REPORTED.

TOTAL LAST WEEK WAS 181. THERE WERE SHARP CLASHES IN THE AREAS SURROUNDING BEN CAT AND LAI KHE IN BINH DUONG, CU CHI AND TRANG BANG IN HAU NGHAI AND AN LOC AND TONLE CHAM IN BINH LONG. OTHERWISE, THE REGION WAS RELATIVELY QUIET. GVN CASUALTIES DROPPED SHARPLY (34 PERCENT) TO 194 (39 KIA, 155 WIA). THE SUBSTANTIAL CUTBACK IN COMMUNIST ARTILLERY EXPENDITURES (FROM 1207 ROUNDS TO 602) WAS PROBABLY A FACTOR IN THE LOWER GVN CASUALTY RATE AS WAS THE REDUCTION IN MINING INCIDENTS. HOWEVER, ENEMY CASUALTIES JUMPED FROM 92 TO 149 (138 KIA, 11 CIA) AS ARVN AND RF OUTMANEUVERED THE COMMUNISTS ON THE BATTLE FIELD. GROUND CONTACTS, AT 36, FELL OFF BY 16 FROM WEEK BEFORE, BUT IN 9 OF THEM 5 OR MORE NVA/VC WERE KIA WHILE THE GREATEST GVN LOSS IN A SINGLE ENGAGEMENT WAS 4 KIA. GVN ARTILLERY FIRINGS FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 7 (GVN REPORTING PERIOD) WERE 12,051 ROUNDS, SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN WEEK BEFORE. 224 VNAF AIR SORTIES WERE FLOWN DURING SAME PERIOD, A REDUCTION

OF 19. ON MARCH 6 AIR STRIKES IN TAN UYEN DISTRICT, BIEN HOA, ACCOUNTED FOR 20 NVA/VC KIA AND 35 BUNKERS DESTROYED AS THE GVN CONTINUED OPERATIONS TO CLEAR THE ENEMY'S ROCKET LAUNCHING BELT. ONLY TWO RALLIERS WERE REPORTED THIS WEEK, BUT THE STEADY STREAM OF ARVN ESCAPEES CONTINUED WHEN 10 FOUND THEIR WAY BACK.

2. ALTHOUGH INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN ALL PROVINCES, THE HEAVIEST CONCENTRATIONS WERE IN BINH DUONG (39), BINH LONG (28) AND HAU NGHIA (22). ONE OF WEEK'S MOST SIGNIFICANT CLASHES TOOK PLACE MARCH 8 FIVE KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF LAI KHE WHEN ELEMENTS OF THE ARVN 5TH DIVISION KILLED 21 ENEMY OF REGIMENT 95-C AND LOST ONLY 2 WIA. ON MARCH 11 ELEMENTS OF THE 25TH DIVISION WERE ATTACKED BY THE NVA 101ST REGIMENT 10 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF TRANG BANG. ENEMY LOST 25 KIA AND 1 CIA WHILE GVN CASUALTIES WERE 4 KIA, 29 WIA.

3. A HELICOPTER ASSIGNED TO PHUOC LONG SECTOR NARROWLY ESCAPED DAMAGE MARCH 11 AS COMMUNIST GUNNERS FIRED FIVE 107MM ROCKETS INTO SONG BE AS THE AIRCRAFT LIFTED OFF. THREE CIVILIANS WERE WOUNDED. THIS MARKS FIRST TIME IN NEARLY TWO MONTHS THAT ROCKETS HAVE BEEN FIRED INTO SONG BE. COMMUNIST USAGE OF ROCKETS HAS DECLINED SUBSTANTIALLY DURING RECENT WEEKS EVEN THOUGH INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATE LARGE STOCKPILES OF BOTH 107MM AND 122MM. NVA/VC FORCES ARE USING MOSTLY 61MM AND 82MM

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O R 130950Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
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CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
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4. THERE WERE THREE ASSASSINATIONS OF RURAL GVN OFFICIALS DURING THE WEEK AS TWO HAMLET CHIEFS (IN PHUOC TUY AND LONG AN) AND A DEPUTY HAMLET CHIEF IN HAU NGHIA WERE KILLED. THERE WERE THREE INCIDENTS OF ENEMY GROUND FIRE AT GVN AIRCRAFT, THE MOST SERIOUS RESULTING IN DEATH OF AN AIRCREW MEMBER AS A CH 47 CHINOOK HELICOPTER WAS RETURNING TO BIEN HOA AFTER A PRISONER EXCHANGE AT LOC NINH. A VNAF PILOT, FLYING AN F-5 FREEDOM FIGHTER, SUCCESSFULLY EVADED AN SA-7 MISSILE WHILE SUPPORTING GROUND TROOPS NEAR TONLE CHAM.

5. ICCS: A BRIEF FLURRY OF ACTIVITY ENGAGED IRANDEL AND INDODEL REGION V MEMBERS ON MARCH 7 WHEN THEY RESPONDED TO TPJMC INVITATIONS TO INVESTIGATE INCIDENT IN WHICH COMMUNIST SMALL ARMS FIRE AT A CH 47 HELICOPTER TOOK THE LIFE OF A CREWMEMBER. THE HELICOPTER HAD FLOWN 40 COMMUNIST PRISONERS TO LOC NINH AND WAS RETURNING TO BIEN HOA AIR BASE FOR ANOTHER LOAD WHEN INCIDENT OCCURRED. IRANDEL AND INDODEL MEMBERS FROM SAIGON HEADQUARTERS LATER SHOWED UP AT ICCS/POE SITE ON THE AIR BASE AND WERE INTERVIEWED BY THE PRESS. THEY REPORTEDLY TOLD NEWSMEN ONLY THAT IRANDEL AND INDODEL HAD AGREED TO "OBSERVE" THE INCIDENT.

PART VIII -- MR 4.

1. SECURITY SITUATION:(CA) OVERALL ACITIVITY: MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED TO DROP IN THE DELTA LAST WEEK, WITH CORPS REPORTING 323 VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS (397 LAST WEEK), INCLUDING 24 GROUND ATTACKS (42), 184 ATTACKS BY FIRE (233), 89 HARASSMENTS (103), 10 INSTANCES OF SABOTAGE (UP FROM 4) AND 14 TERRORIST INCIDENTS (SAME AS LAST WEEK). REPORTED

GVN CASUALTIES LIKEWISE DROPPED: 128 KILLED (166 LAST WEEK), 678 WOUNDED (741), AND 60 MISSING (119). THE GVN LOST 7 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS (8 LAST WEEK), AND 100 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS (DOWN FROM 226 LAST WEEK). CORPS CLAIMS SHARPLY INCREASED VC/NVA LOSSES: 715 KILLED (572 LAST WEEK), 32 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (13) AND 26 CREW-SERVED (15) AND 181 INDIVIDUAL (DOWN FROM 252) WEAPONS SEIZED. ACTIVITY WAS FOCUSSED IN DINH TUONG IN THE NORTH, WITH CORPS REPORTING THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF INCIDENTS OF ANY PROVINCE IN THE DELTA ON
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SIX OF THE SEVEN DAYS IN THE REPORTING WEEK. A VC MORTAR ROUND KILLED 24 AND WOUNDED 50 IN DINH TUONG. A GRENADE IN A CAMBODIAN PAGODA IN BA XUYEN KILLED 14 AND WOUNDED 29. VNAF FLEW 64 A-37 SORTIES IN THE FOUR-DAY PERIOD FROM MARCH 7-10, CONCENTRATED IN DINH TUONG, CHUONG THIEN, AN XUYEN AND KIEN GIANG. THE ARVN 7TH DIVISION REPORTED 60 CONTACTS WITH THE VC/NVA DURING THE WEEK, THE 9TH DIVISION 19 AND THE 21ST DIVISION 16.

(B) GVN GAINS IN THE UPPER DELTA: INFORMATION ON GVN OPERATIONS IN AND AROUND TRI PHAP IS BEING TIGHTLY HELD; HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO CORPS G-2, THE GVN HAS SUCCEEDED IN "PREVENTING THE ENEMY FROM RECEIVING SIGNIFICANT REPLACEMENTS FROM THE 5TH NVA DIVISION" AND MAY HAVE UPSET PLANS FOR A HIGHPOINT LATER IN MARCH. APPARENTLY IN A DEFENSIVE MOVE, THE VC DONG THAP 1 REGIMENT HAS MOVED NORTH FROM ITS RECENT STAMPING GROUNDS SOUTH OF ROUTE 4 TO THE NORTHERN AREAS OF DINH TUONG PROVINCE. ELSEWHERE IN DINH TUONG, THE 427TH RF BATTALION AND A CAVALRY SQUADRON ON MARCH 8 AND 9 KILLED 56 VC/NVA IN SAM GIANG DISTRICT, WHILE LOSING 2 RF KILLED, 22 RF WOUNDED AND 2 ARVN WOUNDED. ON SATURDAY, MARCH 9, A SINGLE 82MM MORTAR ROUND DEFINITELY IDENTIFIED AS BEING OF VC ORIGIN LANDED IN A SCHOOL YARD IN CAI LAY DISTRICT TOWN NEAR THE DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, KILLING 24 SCHOOLCHILDREN AND WOUNDING 50, INCLUDING 47 PUPILS AND 3 ADULTS. THREE OF THE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED WERE MOVED TO SAIGON, THE REST ARE IN THE PROVINCE HOSPITAL. ICCS IRANIAN AND INDONESIAN REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVESTIGATING THE INCIDENT ELSEWHERE IN DINH TUONG, ROUTE 29
NORTH OF CAI LAY WAS MINED TWICE, AND ROUTE 20 IN CAI BE DISTRICT AND ROUTE 30 ON THE DINH TUONG/KIEN PHONG BORDER WERE EACH THE SCENE OF ONE SNIPING INCIDENT. DINH TUONG REPORTED 122 INCIDENTS DURING THE WEEK, INCLUDING 5 GROUND ATTACKS (ONE OUTPOST WAS OVERRUN) AND 36 ATTACKS BY FIRE. 53 OF THE INCIDENTS OCCURRED DURING GVN OPERATIONS. THERE WERE JUST 4 GROUND ATTACKS AND 19 ATTACKS BY FIRE AMONG 68 INCIDENTS REPORTED IN KIEN PHONG, CONCENTRATED ON HARASSING OUTPOSTS ALONG NVA INFILTRATION ROUTE 1A. ONE OUTPOST IN HONG NGU WAS LOST UNDER GROUND ATTACK AND ANOTHER ABANDONED IN MY AN. IN BOTH CASES GVN LOSSES WERE VERY LIGHT, BUT THE OUTPOSTS THEMSELVES WERE ALMOST TOTALLY DESTROYED. AN UNIDENTIFIED NVA UNIT IS

REPORTED IN THE CAI CAI AREA OF HONG NGU DISTRICT. KIEN TUONG
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PROVINCE, NORTH OF TRI PHAP, REPORTS A MERE 30 INCIDENTS,
INCLUDING NO VC/NVA GROUND ATTACKS OR ATTACKS BY FIRE, BUT
CLAIMING 94 VC/NVA KILLED AND THE CAPTURE OF EXTENSIVE M60
MORTAR AND AK47 AMMUNITION. (THESE FIGURES DOUBTESSLY DO NOT
REFLECT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ARVN 9TH AND 7TH DIVISIONS
HEAVILY ENGAGED IN THE PROVINCE FOR THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS.)
KIEN HOA REPORTS DECREASED OVERALL ACTIVITY BUT INCREASED
TERRORISM, INCLUDING THE ASSASSINATION OF A DEPUTY HAMLET
CHIEF IN MO CAY DISTRICT, THE KIDNAPPING OF 7 ELDERLY
FARMERS WHO REFUSED TO PAY VC TAXES IN BA TRI, AND AN AMBUSH
ON ROUTE 175 IN TRUC GIANG DISTRICT BY VC WEARING GVN UNIFORMS
WHICH KILLED ONE PF AND WOUNDED A POLICEMAN. THERE WERE
NO GROUND ATTACKS AND JUST ONE ATTACK BY FIRE ON AN RF FILED
POSITION, WITHOUT RESULTS.

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 NEA-06 NSC-07 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 DPW-01

IO-03 SSO-00 INRE-00 L-02 PRS-01 DRC-01 /073 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2627
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL JEC PARIS UNN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
COMUSMACTHAI
DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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(C) IN THE CENTRAL DELTA, VINH LONG REPORTS NO GROUND ATTACKS OR ATTACKS BY FIRE, BUT 12 BOOBY TRAPS AMONG 46 INCIDENTS, INCLUDING A 105MM ROUND USED AS A MINE IN TRA ON DISTRICT WHICH KILLED 4 MEMBERS OF THE 516 RF BATTALION AND WOUNDED 3. ELSEWHERE IN TRA ON, A PF AMBUSH KILLED 5 VV AND CAPTURED ONE CREW-SERVED AND ONE INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS. A GROUP OF VC IN GVN UNIFORMS RAIDED A HAMLET OFFICE IN VUNG LIEM DISTRICT KILLING ONE GVN SOLDIER WITH 3 OTHERS REPORTED MISSING, AND CARRYING OFF 11 WEAPONS. VINH BINH REPORTS JUST 3 VC HARASSMENTS AND 3 SNIPINGS AMONG 15 INCIDENTS. SA DEC LIKEWISE WAS QUIET, WITH JUST 10 MINOR INCIDENTS.

(D) VC MR3, BY CONTRAST, REPORTS CONTINUED EXTENSIVE VC/NVA ACTIVITY (CAN THO 00832). IN SOUTHERN PHONG DINH, INCREASED VC ACTIVITY AND ARVN RESPONSE THERETO IN PHUNG HIEP DISTRICT IN RECENT WEEKS HAVE PRODUCED 4500 REFUGEES IN AND AROUND THE DISTRICT TOWN. THE REFUGEES ARE FROM PHUNG HIEP, TAN PHUOC HUNG AND HIEP HUNG VILLAGES IN THE SOUTHEASTERN CORNER OF THE PROVINCE. RICE SEEMS TO BE THE PRINCIPLE VC INTEREST IN THE AREA. PROVINCIAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICIALS HAVE NOT YET ACTED TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY RELIEF ALTHOUGH FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE ARE AVAILABLE IN PROVINCE. ALONG THE PHONG DINH/CHUONG THIEN BORDER IN THUAN NHON DISTRICT, LOCAL VC ARE REPORTED PREPARING A HIGHPOINT LATER IN THE MONTH, INCLUDING ATTACKS ON TWO OUTPOSTS, PRIMARILY TO COLLECT TAXES. TO THE SOUTH IN BA XUYEN, VC/NVA ACTIVITY

CONTINUES CONCENTRATED IN THE THANH TRI/HOA TU DISTRICT BORDER AREA, WITH 5 GROUND ATTACKS IN THE AREA SINCE MARCH 1, FORCING THE ABANDONMENT OF THE ONE OUTPOST AND CONTINUED PRESSURE ON TWO OTHERS WITHIN THE LAST WEEK. A GRENADE, PROBABLY OF US MANUFACTURE, WAS THROWN INTO A GROUP OF CAMBODIANS IN A PAGODA AT ABOUT 2230 HOURS MARCH 6 IN THUAN HOA DISTRICT, KILLING 11 IMMEDIATELY, INCLUDING A MONK AND AN OUTPOST COMMANDER. THREE MORE DIED IN THE HOSPITAL. 29 WERE WOUNDED, SEVERAL SEVERLY. ICCS IRANIAN AND INDONESIAN REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVESTIGATING THE INCIDENT. ACCORDING TO VARIOUS THEORIES, THE GRENADE MAY HAVE BEEN THROWN BY A YOUNGER MONK SYMPATHIZING WITH THE VC, BY AN OUTSIDE VC, OR - ALTHOUGH THIS IS MOST UNLIKELY - BY A PF INVOLVED IN A PERSONAL QUARREL. THERE WERE 46 INCIDENTS DURING

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THE WEEK IN BA XUYEN, INCLUDING JUST 3 RELATED TO GVN OPERATIONS. IN CHUONG THIEN THERE WERE ONLY 24 INCIDENTS (INCLUDING THOSE AFFECTING THE ARVN 21ST DIVISION), INCLUDING NO GROUND ATTACKS, BUT 17 ATTACKS BY FIRE, IN WESTERN VC MR3, KIEN GIANG PROVINCE REPORTS JUST ONE GROUND ATTACK BUT 26 ATTACKS BY FIRE AMONG A TOTAL OF 53 INCIDENTS, AS THE HIGHPOINT OF RECENT WEEKS APPEARS TO HAVE PASSED. THE K-6 NVA BATTALION MAY HAVE MOVED INTO KIEN LUONG DISTRICT. AN GIANG, WITH NO INCIDENTS AT ALL, REPORTS TWO RALLIERS.

2. GVN ACTIVITIES: THE NEW VINH BINH PROVINCE CHIEF HAS REQUESTED MR4 APPROVAL OF A PLAN TO PACIFY THE BA DONG AREA OF LONG TOAN DISTRICT, PRESENTLY UNDER VC CONTROL.

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